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Community *notes*

Greeting

You may know that I love the arts and am enthusiastic member of the Columbia Festival of the Arts. This year, CFA has changed its format and is presenting a Spring Festival. I hope that you will take the opportunity to experience this weekend's presentations and let CFA know what you think.

Looking forward to seeing you at one (or more) of the events!

Mary Kay

american
routes

Columbia Festival of the Arts presents its Spring Festival, *American Routes*, this weekend. Below is the schedule at a glance. I'm sure that you will find something that peaks your interest. Click [here](#) for all the details!

Thursday April 16

6:30-9:30 p.m. Belmont Manor - **SPARK! – Kickoff Benefit**

Friday April 17

6-7:15 p.m. Oliver's Carriage House - **The Amish Project - A One-Woman Tour-de-Force**

8-10 p.m. Oliver's Carriage House - **The Whipping Man – A Civil War Drama**

8:30-10 p.m. Historic Oakland - **Opera Delaware – Wine, Women and Food!**

10 – 11 p.m. Historic Oakland - FREE Reception

Saturday April 18

10-11:15 a.m. Historic Oakland - **FREE KidzArt**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Oliver's Carriage House – **FREE The Whipping Man Lecture**

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Historic Oakland - **FREE Live Model Drawing**

12-1 p.m. Oliver's Carriage House - **FREE The Amish Project Lecture**

12-1:30 p.m. Historic Oakland - **Mark Edwards – Classical Guitarist**

2-3:15 p.m. Oliver's Carriage House – **The Amish Project – A One-Woman Tour-de-Force**

2-3:30 p.m. Historic Oakland - **TownHall – Folk Music with a Mozart Twist**

4-5 p.m. Oliver's Carriage House – **Dinaw Mengestu – Ethiopian-American Novelist**

6-7:15 p.m. Oliver's Carriage House – **The Amish Project – A One-Woman Tour-de-Force**

8-10 p.m. Oliver's Carriage House – **The Whipping Man - A Civil War Drama**

8-9:30 p.m. The Gathering Place – **Portland Cello Project – Indie Orchestra**

9:30-11 p.m. The Gathering Place – **The Skivvies – Adult cabaret by People Magazine's Most Playful Performers**

Sunday April 19

11 a.m. – 1p.m. Roger Carter Center - **FREE Live Model Drawing**

11:30 a.m. – 1p.m. Roger Carter Center - **FREE KidzArt**

1:30-3 p.m. Roger Carter Center - **Hot Off The Press Series: Orson Welles/Shylock**

3:30-6 p.m. Roger Carter Center - **Hot Off The Press Series: Civilizing Lusby**

6:30-8 p.m. Roger Carter Center - **E. Shawn Qaissaunee – Jazz with an Afghan Twist**

WomenFest 2015

Find inspiration from local experts to improve your health and fitness, fine tune your finances and learn about self-defense and relationship building at Howard County's 7th annual WomenFest on Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville. WomenFest is an interactive day that focuses on health, wellness, fashion and beauty, and is designed to inspire women to live more balanced, healthier and fuller lives. Admission is free.

Internationally acclaimed fitness expert Lynne Brick, president of Brick Bodies Fitness Services, Inc., delivers the keynote address at 1:30 p.m., inspiring attendees to embark on a journey to health and happiness "in just three easy steps." Free tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, as seating is limited.

This year's event features 90+ vendors and exhibitors offering jewelry and fashion accessories, home décor, home improvement and financial services, as well as health screenings, seminars and food. New this year "Stirring Up Fun in The Kitchen" cooking demos at 11:00 a.m. and noon by Kathryn White, Danielle Hanscom and Debbie Mosimann, co-authors of *Eight Broads in the Kitchen*. A full schedule of the day's events, including seminars on financial fitness, discovering your inner artist, safety and improving communication skills is available [online](#).

Howard County FY2016 Budget

The Howard County Council begins its public meetings on the FY2016 budget with a Capital Budget Hearing on Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m., Banneker Room, George Howard Building (3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City). This public hearing includes the departments of Recreation & Parks, Housing and Public Works.

The Council will hold a work session on the proposed capital budget (all departments except for Board of Education, Howard Community College and HC Library System) on Monday, April 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the C. Vernon Gray Conference Room, George Howard Building.

County Executive Allan Kittleman will present the budget to the Council on Monday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Banneker Room (prior to the April Legislative Public Hearing (non-budget legislation) at 7:30 p.m.).

Interested persons may [sign up online](#) to testify at the Capital Budget Hearing. The Capital Budget Work Session will be available for [viewing online](#).

Click [here](#) to view the full budget calendar and to download the FY2016 Executive's Proposed Capital Budget.

Workshop for Parents

The Howard County Office of Children's Services announces a workshop for parents and guardians of adolescents.

Navigating Meaningful Dialogue with your Teen will focus on parents' common concerns about communicating with their children and best ways to create effective dialogue. Parents are invited to listen to a panel of professionals and community members engage in conversation about keeping a healthy relationship



with children during the teen years and to take part in an open discussion or submit questions. This workshop will be held on Thursday, April 23, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia. There is no fee to attend this event; however, space is limited, and parents must [pre-register](#).

Women's Journey: Past, Present & Future

Please join the Howard County Commission for Women and the League of Women Voters on Saturday April 25, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Charles E. Miller Library, 9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Panel discussion moderated by **Korva Coleman**, NPR newscaster, featuring:

Buffy Beaudoin-Schwartz, Communications Director, Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers,

Renee Foose, Superintendent, Howard County Public School System,

Brenda McChriston, CEO, Spectrum HR Solutions,

Mary Ann Scully, Chairman, President, and CEO, Howard Bank, and

Mary Kay Sigaty, Chair, Howard County Council.

Breakout sessions will follow the discussion panel. Light fare and coffee served. For more information or accommodations call 410-313-6400 (voice/relay) or email women@howardcountymd.gov. Seating is limited!

Health and Safety Fair

Harper's Choice Community Association invites you to its Health and Safety Fair on Saturday, April 25, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Kahler Hall (5440 Old Tucker Row, Columbia).



Look for activities such as Child ID services provided by Howard Lodge No. 101, Bike Safety Checks courtesy of Princeton Sports, and a Bike Rodeo among other fun and helpful happenings.

Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the Howard County Food Bank. Please bring peanut butter, cereal, oatmeal, tuna or canned fruit to the event. Discount coupons to Rita's in Harper's Choice will be given to all that donate a food item. Participating families will be entered into a drawing for a Rita's gift card.

Youth Public Forum

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council invites you to its 2015 Public Forum on Saturday, April 25, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Anne Arundel Community College, Cade Center for Fine Arts (101 College Parkway, Arnold, MD).

Entitled "Advocacy, Activism, and Education", this year's forum presents different forms of action for sharing policy and legislative recommendations and how those forms of action fit within the larger social action landscape. This is followed by "Personal Asset Mapping" during which participants learn how youth can leverage their relationships to share information with their peers, schools, and communities. Lunch is provided and free parking is available. Registration begins at 12:45 p.m. You may register for this event [online](#).

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council was established through the Maryland General Assembly to ensure that Maryland youth are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change. By providing testimony in Annapolis and policy recommendations, council members have the opportunity to raise their voices and share their experiences with the Governor, State legislature, agencies, and other youth.

South American Cultures Fete

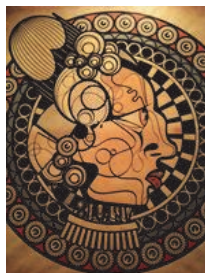
Celebrate the societies of South America at the "South America Culture Fest", a free, family-friendly event, on Sunday, April 26, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Miller Branch Library (9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City).



Experience an afternoon of entertaining cultural demonstrations, enlightening presentations, music, dance, displays and food sold from Argentine food truck Che Cordobe and Brazilian food truck Thank

God There Is Great Cuisine. This festival features presentations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Attendees should expect that photos are to be taken at the South America Culture Fest. Families attending the event will be able to pick up a Culture Fest Passport and complete it for door prizes by visiting exhibitors' tables. The event is hosted by Columbia Association and the Howard County Library System.



Community Events

Howard County GreenFest

Join Howard County Government for GreenFest 2015 on Saturday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Burrill Galleria and Quad, HCC. Visit hcgreenfest.org for more information.

Long & Foster Columbia Gives Bingo Night

Join Long & Foster Columbia for their annual Bingo and Silent Auction Charity event on Thursday, April 23 at Hawthorn Center (6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia). Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and Bingo starts at 6:45 p.m. Dinner will be served and guests can make bids at the silent auction. Advance tickets are \$20; tickets at the door are \$25 pp. Call 410-730-3456 to purchase your tickets today. Good luck!

April Shredding Event

Due to popular demand and residents' feedback, this year's Spring Shredding Event will take place the weekend after **GreenFest** on Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (rain or shine) at Meadowbrook Park and Ride (Exit 1A off MD 100, Ellicott City). Howard County residents may bring up to three bags or boxes of paper to be shredded onsite. For more information, visit the [website](#).

Cherrybration 2015

Participate in Blossoms of Hope and the Cherrybration 2015 schedule of events at BlossomsOfHope.org. Don't forget the [Pink Plate Specials](#)!

5K Walk to benefit Lung Cancer Research

Register now for [Breathe Deep Columbia](#), a 5K walk around Lake Kittamaqundi in Downtown Columbia on Saturday, April 25. This family-friendly event is being held rain or shine. Have plans on April 25? Visit the website to find out how you can help with an online donation.

Council Members Visiting Columbia Villages

The *Columbia Listening Tour* continues next week. The County Council members seek input from the village boards on New Town zoning, village center revitalization, and other local issues impacting the villages.

Hickory Ridge: Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Oakland Mills: Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

River Hill: Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Long Reach: Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.



Mary Kay Sigaty

mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County on Twitter: @HoCoGov

Howard County Facebook: [facebook.com/hocogov](https://www.facebook.com/hocogov)

Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-2001